

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
OCTOBER 25, 2000
EOB 12TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Ron Ogens, Chair
Commissioner Paul Sterling
Commissioner Tom Carr
Chief Dennis Urban, Bethesda FD
Assistant Chief Phil Guercio, DFRS
Deputy Chief Mike Kelley (Alternate)

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Gordon A. Aoyagi, MCFRS
Chief Roger Strock, DFRS
Chief David Dwyer, DVFRS
Assistant Chief Roger McGary, DFRS
Chief James Stanton, Kensington VFD
District Chief James Lesnick, DFRS
Captain John Gallo, DFRS
Monte Fitch
George Giebel, MCFRS
Neil A. Shorb, MCFRS
Beth Feldman, MCFRS
Annette Cheng, MCFRS

1. Call to Order – Chair Ogens

The Operations Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Ogens at 7:45 a.m. in the EOB 12th floor conference room.

2. Approval of Minutes of September 19 and 27, 2000 Meetings

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Carr to approve the Operations Committee minutes of September 19 and 27, 2000 meetings. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Sterling and PASSED unanimously.

3- Incident Type/Response Assignment Report

District Chief Lesnick gave a report on the Incident Type/Response Assignment.

On March 2000, the Fire Administrator assigned a Communications Subcommittee work group to review MCFRS call types and response assignments. The work group was charged to review these issues:

- a. review all incident types to determine if new incident types need to be created, or if existing ones can be abolished or consolidated.
- b. Review all response assignments to determine if the appropriate complement of apparatus is being dispatched to incidents.
- c. Priority consideration be given to review the response to automatic home fire alarms.
- d. Information should be obtained from other jurisdictions to determine the results implementing “on the silent” responses to certain types of incidents to determine if such an approach to response is appropriate for the MCFRS.

At the May 11, 2000 meeting of the FRC, the Commission elected to leave the response to automatic fire alarms unchanged.

The Communications Subcommittee work group submitted their report to the Operations Committee in September. Their recommendations are summarized in District Chief Lesnick's memorandum dated August 18, 2000 to Operations Committee Chair Ogens, which is included in today's agenda packet.

The Operations Committee recommended the following changes to the current response assignment matrix:

- Designate an illegal barbecue as a routine service call and send the closest unit
- Delete leaf fires as an incident type and consolidate under brush fire incident type
- Clarify the defective furnace incident type as fire/smoke confined to the furnace
- Add manpower to ice rescues
- Downgrade illegal fires to routine service call
- Allow a truck to fulfill manpower unit requirement on IP/PIC
- Clarify response to leaking propane cylinder as being outside
- Redesignate SC/KNOX as a routine service call
- Add a medic unit to seizure incident type
- Combine HM storage facility fire with HM/BOX
- Clarify that undetermined fires are outside
- Delete unknown rescue incident type – use unknown emergency dispatch instead
- Delete other vehicle fire incident type

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Carr to recommend to the FRC that the changes to the current response assignment matrix listed above be adopted. MOTION SECONDED by Chief Urban and PASSED unanimously.

In addition, the Operations Committee recommended modifying the response assignments on Interstates 495 and 270 for an 18-month period as follows:

- On personal injury collisions (PICs), add an engine to the opposite lane assignment
- On vehicle fires, add an ambulance to the opposite lane assignment

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Sterling to recommend to the FRC that the response assignments on Interstate 495 and Interstate 270 be modified for a period of 18-month as follows: 1) On personal injury collisions (PICs), add an engine to the opposite lane assignment; 2) on vehicles fires, add an ambulance to the opposite lane assignment. MOTION SECONDED by Chief Urban and PASSED unanimously.

4. Revisions to the Integrated Emergency Command Structure Regulation

After an extensive discussion, and having considered the action taken by the Operations Committee at its September 19, 2000 special meeting, the comments from the September 28, 2000 Chiefs Committee's meeting, and the comments contained in the October 24, 2000 letter from the Fire Board, the Operations Committee agreed to the following changes to the proposed Integrated Emergency Command Structure regulation:

- page 4, sec.3.1 – Jurisdiction: insert a last sentence to read: *“The jurisdiction of the DFRS and DVFRS Division Chiefs encompasses all of Montgomery County.”*

- page 6, sec.4.b: insert a new item 4 to read: *“The first arriving officer is the incident commander. The first arriving dispatched command officer may assume command from a non-dispatched command officer of equal rank. A Fire/Rescue Chief has the authority to assume command over an incident within his or her jurisdiction.”*

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Carr to recommend to the FRC the adoption of the proposed Integrated Emergency Command Structure regulation as amended. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Sterling and PASSED unanimously.

5. Staffing Request – Truck 5 and Rescue Squad 21

Chief Stanton reported that the KVFD is requesting that the Commission reconsider the staffing restrictions previously placed on the operations of Rescue Squad 21 and Ladder Truck 5 so that all primary units at the KVFD are dispatched fairly and equally, just as the other LFRDs in the County. He stated that these restrictions basically do not allow DFRS staff to ride or operate these units unless other primary units in the stations are fully staffed.

Chief Stanton also reported that the KVFD is considering replacing Ladder Truck 5. Fire Administrator Aoyagi recommended that the KVFD defer the truck purchase until the aerial truck study is complete.

With regard to Rescue Squad 21, Commissioner Carr suggested that the KVFD provide new information to the Operations Committee to reevaluate this issue.

A MOTION was made by Chief Urban to approve cross-staffing for T5 and RS21, pending the completion of the aerial truck study. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Sterling, with Chief Urban and Commissioner Sterling voting for the motion and Commissioner Carr and Assistant Chief Guercio voting against. MOTION FAILED.

Commissioner Ogens established a work group to review Chief Stanton’s request on Rescue Squad 21. The members of the work group consisted of Assistant Chief Guercio, Chief Urban, and an additional member who will be appointed by the Fire Administrator. The work group will make a recommendation to the Operations Committee at its December meeting.

6. Aerial Unit Study

Committee Chair Ogens reported that he received a memorandum from Chief Urban addressing the concerns of the Bethesda FD about the replacement of AT-20 and plans for NIH. The Bethesda FD believes that decisions should be made on the basis of community needs, separate from NIH plans for apparatus, which may or may not materialize. The NIH Chief indicated that he had requested a Quint in his FY02 budget request.

Committee Chair Ogens appointed the following members to serve on the aerial unit study work group: Assistant Chief Guercio, Commissioner Sterling, and 5 remaining members who will be designated by the Fire Administrator.

7. **Future meeting schedule for CY01**

The meeting dates for the first six months of CY01 are as follows:

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| • January 24, 2001 | 0730 hours | • April 25, 2001 | 0730 hours |
| • February 28, 2001 | 0730 hours | • May 23, 2001 | 0730 hours |
| • March 28, 2001 | 1800 hours | • June 27, 2001 | 1800 hours |

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Sterling to adjourn the meeting. MOTION SECONDED by Chief Urban and PASSED unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.